

Application No. 09/914,621
Amdt. dated 08/16/2004
Reply to Office Action of 12/16/2003

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A plasmid vector for *in vivo* administration to a host, comprising:
 - a nucleotide sequence encoding a respiratory syncytial virus fusion (RSV F) protein lacking an autologous RSV F signal peptide sequence and including a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous signal peptide which enhances the level of expression of RSV F protein in the host; and
 - a promoter sequence operatively coupled to the nucleotide sequence for expression of said RSV F protein in the host.
2. (Original) The vector of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous signal peptide encodes Herpes Simplex Virus I (HSV I) gD.
3. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 1 wherein said first nucleotide sequence encodes a RSV F protein fragment lacking a transmembrane coding region.
4. (Original) The vector of claim 1 wherein said promoter sequence is an immediate early cytomegalovirus promoter.
5. (Original) The vector of claim 1 further including a second nucleotide sequence to enhance the immunoprotective ability of said RSV F protein when expressed *in vivo* from said vector in a host.
6. (Original) The vector of claim 5 wherein said second nucleotide sequence comprises a pair of splice sites to prevent aberrant mRNA splicing.
7. (Original) The vector of claim 6 wherein said second nucleotide sequence is located between said first nucleotide sequence and said promoter sequence.
8. (Original) The vector of claim 7 wherein said second nucleotide sequence is that of rabbit β -globin intron II.
9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Previously Amended) A plasmid which is plasmid p82M35B (ATCC 203790) as shown in Figure 10.

11. (Previously amended) An immunogenic composition for *in vivo* administration to a host for the generation in the host of a protective immune response to RSV F protein, comprising a plasmid vector as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier therefor.

12. to 24. (Cancelled)